



***United States Attorney
Southern District of New York***

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**'TANGLEWOOD BOYS' MEMBER GETS LIFE
IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR BRONX MURDER**

JAMES B. COMEY, United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOHN PETRUCELLI, a/k/a "Johnny Boy," a/k/a "Fat Face," was sentenced today in Manhattan federal court to life in prison for the 1995 murder of Paul Cicero in the Morris Park Section of the Bronx, New York. Cicero was 17 years old at the time of the murder.

PETRUCELLI was convicted on November 4, 2002, after a nine-day jury trial in front of United States District Judge THOMAS P. GRIESA. The evidence at trial showed PETRUCELLI murdered Cicero in order to maintain or enhance his position in a racketeering enterprise, known as the "Tanglewood Boys." Today's sentence of lifetime imprisonment was required by the statute under which PETRUCELLI was charged. GRIESA also ordered PETRUCELLI to pay \$8,000 in restitution to the Cicero family, for funeral expenses.

The trial evidence showed that at the time of the murder PETRUCELLI was a member of the Tanglewood Boys, a group of young men who engaged in a variety of violent and money-making activities, including murder, armed robbery, theft, extortion, loansharking and gambling in the Bronx and Lower Westchester, New York. Several members of the Tanglewood Boys were the sons of "made" members of the Luchese Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra, giving rise to a close association between those criminal enterprises, the evidence showed.

Paul Cicero, it was shown at trial, was stabbed in the abdomen on June 20, 1995, at approximately 3:15 a.m., near Public School 108 in the Morris Park Section of the Bronx and died at 5:01 a.m. at Jacobi Medical Center. PETRUCELLI was identified as the stabber by an eyewitness who testified at the trial. The trial evidence also showed that hours before the Cicero stabbing, Cicero's cousin was involved in an argument with PETRUCELLI and other members of the Tanglewood Boys, and that that argument resulted in the shooting of a Tanglewood Boys member named Darin Mazzarella. Mazzarella, who survived the shooting and also testified at trial, later learned from several sources that PETRUCELLI had killed Cicero to avenge the shooting of Mazzarella.

Mazzarella pleaded guilty in December 1997 to participating in the affairs of the Tanglewood Boys enterprise

through a pattern of racketeering activity, which included murder, armed robbery, extortion, loansharking and gambling.

PETRUCELLI, 32, resided in Westchester County until he was arrested for the Cicero murder on January 31, 2002. He has been detained since that time.

Mr. COMEY praised the investigative efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New York City Police Department.

Deputy United States Attorney DAVID N. KELLEY and Assistant United States Attorney DAVID RASKIN are in charge of the prosecution.

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